

5 We claim:

1. A method of making moisture-resistant, shape-retaining fabric, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting at least one surface of said fabric with a polymeric material; and

(b) curing said polymeric material so that said polymeric material penetrates the interstices of said fabric and forms a permanent coating on said at least one surface of said fabric.

10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising after step (a), the step of removing excess polymeric material from said at least one surface of said fabric.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, urethane, or a polyvinyl chloride-urethane blend in proportions ranging from 5% to 95% polyvinyl chloride to 95% to 5% urethane.

15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises applying heat to said polymeric material for a sufficient time and at a sufficient temperature to cure said polymeric material.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising after step (b), the step of cutting said coated fabric in continuous strips to form ribbons.

20 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of assembling said ribbons to form bows.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising after step (b), the step of cutting said fabric in predetermined patterns and assembling said patterns to form bows.

8. A method of making a weather-resistant, shape-retaining fabric, comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a laminate film to at least one surface of said fabric; and

25 (b) passing said fabric through at least one heated roller to bond said film to said at least one surface of said fabric so that said film penetrates the interstices of said fabric and forms a laminated

5 fabric.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising after step (a), the step of removing excess film from said at least one surface of said fabric.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising after step (b), the step of passing said laminated fabric through spreader rolls to remove wrinkles in said laminated fabric.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising after step (a), the step of applying an adhesive between said fabric and said laminate film.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein said laminate film is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, urethane, or a polyvinyl chloride-urethane blend in proportions ranging from 5% to 95% polyvinyl chloride to 95% to 5% urethane.

15 13. The method of claim 8 further comprising after step (b), the step of cutting said coated fabric in continuous strips to form ribbons.

14. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of assembling said ribbons to form bows.

20 15. The method of claim 8 further comprising after step (b), the step of cutting said fabric in predetermined patterns and assembling said patterns to form bows.

16. The fabric made by the method of claim 1.

17. Ribbons made by the method of claim 1.

18. Bows made by the method of claim 1.

25 19. A fabric having at least one surface coated with a polymeric material which has been cured so that said polymeric material penetrates the interstices of said fabric and forms a permanent coating on said surface of said fabric.

5        20. The fabric of claim 19 wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, urethane, or a polyvinyl chloride-urethane blend in proportions ranging from 5% to 95% PVC to 95% to 5% urethane.

21. The fabric of claim 19 wherein said fabric comprises cloth selected from the group of materials consisting of natural or synthetic fibers or combinations thereof.

10      22. A decorative bow formed from shape-retaining, weather-resistant, and moisture-resistant fabric having a film of polymeric material laminated to at least one surface of said fabric such that said polymeric material has penetrated the interstices of said fabric.

15      23. Ribbon formed from shape-retaining, weather-resistant, and moisture-resistant fabric having a film of polymeric material laminated to at least one surface of said fabric such that said polymeric material has penetrated the interstices of said fabric.